

little drop of the fluid is spread upon a glass plate, a multitude of small granules are perceived by the naked eye. These granules, or rather capsules, measure from  $\frac{1}{100}$ th to  $\frac{1}{50}$ th of a millimetre. Under a magnifying power of 300 to 400 diameters, an immense quantity of filiform spermatozoids, regularly disposed from the centre to the circumference, may be distinguished in their interior. By compressing one of these capsules with a plate of thin glass, it is made to burst, and then the spermatozoids escape, animated by movements which leave no doubt as to their nature.

The ordinary small vesicles in which the spermatozoids are formed continue their development here by increasing considerably in size, and thus become to a certain extent spermatophora. These corpuscles are all found in the same state during a great part of the year, both in the seminal receptacles of the females and in the testes and the copulatory joints of the palpi of the males. At the period when the eggs are to be fertilized, the spermatophorous capsules burst, and then, the spermatozoids being set free, the seminal fluid presents its ordinary aspect.—*Comptes Rendus*, April 9, 1860, p. 727.

*Note on the Larva of a Nematode Worm, and on some remarkable peculiarities of the Generative Organs in the Nematoda.*

By A. SCHNEIDER.

M. Schneider calls attention to a sort of alternation of generations in a Nematode worm, which he calls *Alloionema appendiculatum*. In the Black Slug (*Arion ater*) he found the larva of a Nematode worm, possessing neither a mouth nor an anus, but simply the rudiments of an intestinal canal and of generative organs. This larva is further characterized by the existence of a curious appendage on each side of the posterior part of the body. When these larvæ are placed in animal matter in a state of decomposition, they become developed, acquire a mouth, and attain their sexual maturity. These animals then propagate during a great number of generations, but without passing again through the larval phase observed in the *Arion*.

Another interesting discovery of M. Schneider's is that of a hermaphrodite Nematode worm, the first with which we are acquainted. He gives it the name of *Pelodytes hermaphroditus*. This animal occurs in the larval state in Snails. When an individual is placed by itself in a watch-glass with animal substances in a state of decomposition, it soon attains its sexual maturity. Spermatozoids are first seen to make their appearance in the generative tube, and then eggs; fecundation takes place, and a new generation is brought forth. To those who know the perfect similarity which exists between the evolution of ova and that of spermatozoids in the Nematoda, this fact, notwithstanding the great interest attaching to it, cannot be surprising.—*Siebold und Kölliker's Zeitschrift*, 1859, p. 176.